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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,968	10/03/2001	Shingo Kuramochi	JP920000250US1	2672
26502	7590	12/31/2003	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION IPLAW IQ0A/40-3 1701 NORTH STREET ENDICOTT, NY 13760			FLEURANTIN, JEAN B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2172	

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/970,968

Applicant(s)

KURAMOCHI, SHINGO

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2172

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the application filed on October 03, 2001, in which claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

3. The Change of Address filed on August 19, 2003 (Paper No. 3) has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) file on 01/03/02 (Paper No. 4) complies with the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609. It has been placed in the application file. The information referred to therein has been considered as to merits. (See attached form).

Drawings

5. The drawings filed on May 29, 2002 are approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 as indicated in the "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948.

Specification

6. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because TITLE of the invention should not be in the same page as the Abstract, and delete the extraneous matter found on the of the top page (page 38). See MPEP 608.01(f). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,867,110 issued to Naito et al. (“hereinafter Naito”).

As per claim 1, discloses Naito “system for managing an object positioned in a management area” as each data set concerning a particular position is associated with a particular area, and the host computer is adapted to determine based upon the received position information data (see col. 3, lines 22-25), the system comprising:

“a host computer for holding a database in which position data of an object to be managed is stored in relation to attribute data of the object used for identifying the object” as a communication host apparatus which includes a database for storing a plurality of data set wherein each concerns a predetermined position, (see col. 1, lines 67 to col. 2, lines 3);

Art Unit: 2172

“a portable terminal machine” as a portable terminal which is capable of retrieving data set (object information) from a database which concerns the position of the object, (see figure 1, element 12; col. 2, line 18-19); and

“data communication means for transferring a database from the host computer to the portable terminal machine” as a means for transmitting the appropriate data to the portable terminal, (see col. 2, lines 25-28);

“wherein the portable terminal machine displays a position of the object according to position data in the database transferred from the host computer to the portable terminal machine” as based on the information received from the host computer, the display mean displays the corresponding data obtained by the data processing, wherein the user of the portable terminal can obtain appropriate information regarding circumstances of a desire location of the object, (see col. 2, lines 28-34).

As per claim 2, Naito discloses, “wherein the portable terminal machine” (see figure 12) includes:

“a data storing unit for storing the database transferred from the host computer” as a means for transmitting the appropriate data to the portable terminal, (see col. 2, lines 25-28);

“a condition inputting unit for entering a retrieval condition” as the data processing unit 24 executes the data processing based upon the received retrieval data set, (see col. 10, lines 9-11);

“and a searching unit for searching the database according to the retrieval condition to obtain the position data from the database when the attribute data of the object matches the

Art Unit: 2172

retrieval condition” as the data processing unit 24 retrieves the data in the second database of the database 32 based upon the impassable road section information data 206 to obtain the intersection position data 402, 403 in association with the road identification number contained in the impassable road section information data 206, (see col. 10, lines 28-34).

As per claim 3, Naito discloses, “wherein the portable terminal machine includes a data synchronization unit for synchronizing data in the database stored in the data storing unit of the portable terminal machine with data in the database held in the host computer” as based upon the supplied texts information data and intersection position data, displays on the screen thereof an image of a map in which the road sections and the route toward the destination are specified, (see col. 10, lines 44-55).

As per claim 4, Naito discloses, “wherein the host computer includes a data synchronization unit for synchronizing data in the database stored in the data storing unit of the portable terminal machine with data in the database held in the host computer” as based upon the supplied texts information data and intersection position data, displays on the screen thereof an image of a map in which the road sections and the route toward the destination are specified, (see col. 10, lines 44-55).

As per claim 5, Naito discloses, wherein the object is a computer, (see Naito, col. 1, line 65 to col. 2, lines 20).

Art Unit: 2172

As per claim 6, Naito discloses "a retrieval system" as a portable terminal which is capable of retrieving data set (object information) from a database, (see col. 2, lines 18-19), comprising:

"a host computer including a database, which database is output by the host computer on request, in which retrieval information and position information of objects to be managed are held in relation to each other" as a communication host apparatus which includes a database for storing a plurality of data set wherein each concerns a predetermined position, (see col. 1, lines 67 to col. 2, lines 3); and

"a portable terminal machine for receiving and storing the database output by the host computer" as host apparatus being responsive to a portable terminal which is capable of retrieving data set (object information) from a database which concerns the position of the object, (see figure 1, element 12; col. 2, line 16-19);

"wherein the portable terminal machine includes: a searching unit for searching the retrieval information in the database according to a condition specified by a user to identify a match between the retrieval information and the condition and consequently to identify position information of a particular object" as the data processing unit 24 retrieves the data in the second database of the database 32 based upon the impassable road section information data 206 to obtain the intersection position data 402, 403 in association with the road identification number contained in the impassable road section information data 206, (see col. 10, lines 28-34); "and a map display unit for displaying a position where the particular object is managed on a map according to the position information" as specify an area in the map to be displayed on the screen

Art Unit: 2172

of the display unit 22 so as to read appropriate map from the map database, (see col. 10, lines 25-27).

As per claim 7, Naito discloses "a portable position display apparatus for displaying a position of an object to be managed" as the data processing unit 24 refers to the position information data indicative of its own current position of the portable terminal, in which to specify an area in the map to be displayed on the screen of the display unit 22 so as to read appropriate map from the map database, (see col. 2, lines 22-34), comprising:

"a data storing unit for storing a database that includes map data used to display a map of an area in which the object is positioned, position data used to locate the object on the map, and attribute data used to identify the object, wherein the position data is stored in relation to the attribute data" as a map stored in the database in which an specific area in the map to be displayed of the display unit 22 to read out appropriate map data, (see col. 10, lines 25-27);

"a condition input unit for enabling a user to enter a retrieval condition" as a means for entering a new interval time through the input device 20, (see col. 11, lines 38-39);

"a searching unit for searching the database stored in the data storing unit according to the retrieval condition to identify a match between the attribute data and the retrieval condition and consequently to identify position data of the object" as a means for searching the data in the second database of the database 32 based upon the shelter route information data 207 to obtain the intersection position data 402, 403 in association with the road identification number contained in the shelter route information data 207, (see col. 10, lines 33-37); and

Art Unit: 2172

“a map display unit for displaying a position of the object on the map according to the map data and the position data in the database when a match is identified by the searching unit” as specify an area in the map to be displayed on the screen of the display unit 22 so as to read appropriate map from the map database, (see col. 10, lines 25-27).

As per claim 8, Naito discloses, “the apparatus further including a data receiving unit for receiving the database” as means for including retrieval from the database 32 based upon data, (see col. 5, lines 8-9).

As per claim 9, Naito discloses “the apparatus further including a management information display unit for displaying management information of the object according to the attribute data in the database when the searching unit identifies the match” as based upon the supplied texts information data and intersection position data, displays on the screen thereof an image of a map in which the road sections and the route toward the destination are specified, (see col. 10, lines 44-55).

As per claim 10, Naito discloses “an apparatus for managing data of an object to be managed” as a mean for displaying the corresponding data obtained by the data processing, wherein the user of the portable terminal can obtain appropriate information regarding circumstances of a desire location of the object, (see col. 2, lines 28-34); comprising:

“a database storing unit for storing a database that includes map data used to display a map of an area in which an object to be managed is positioned, position data of a display mark

Art Unit: 2172

that denotes the position of the object on the map, and attribute data used to identify the object” as a map stored in the database in which an specific area in the map to be displayed of the display unit 22 to read out appropriate map data, (see col. 10, lines 25-27); and

“a database outputting unit for outputting the database to a portable terminal machine in response to a request from the portable terminal machine” as host apparatus being responsive to a portable terminal which is capable of retrieving data set (object information) from a database which concerns the position of the object, (see figure 1, element 12; col. 2, line 16-19).

As per claim 11, Naito discloses, “the apparatus further including a map display unit for displaying the map according to the map data in the database” as to specific area in the map to be displayed on the screen of the display unit 22 so as to read out appropriate map data from the map database, (see col. 10, lines 25-27);

“a mark drawing unit for enabling a user to draw a display mark on the map displayed by the map display unit” as a user touches the touch panel the input device 20 detects the operation and provides the data processing unit 24 with instructions, in which the display unit 22 displays on a display screen images corresponding to the results of data processing by the data processing unit 24, (see col. 4, lines 65 to col. 5, line 3);

“a coordinate obtaining unit for obtaining coordinates of the display mark drawn by the mark drawing unit” as a user touches the touch panel the input device 20 detects the operation and provides the data processing unit 24 with instructions, in which the display unit 22 displays on a display screen images corresponding to the results of data processing by the data processing unit 24, (see col. 4, lines 65 to col. 5, line 3), and column 9, lines 51-54; and

Art Unit: 2172

“a data storing unit for storing the coordinate data in the database as the position data of the display mark”, (see figure 1, element 32, col. 4, lines 58-59).

As per claim 12, Naito discloses, “wherein the map display unit” (see col. 10, lines 25-27), “when the display mark is drawn by the mark drawing unit, displays a reference line created on the map in response to a fixed item in the area in which the object to be managed is positioned” as to determine the longitude and latitude ranges (coordinates) defining an area in which the position corresponding to the received position information data falls, (see col. 9, lines 51-54).

As per claim 13, Naito discloses “a position display method” as a means for displaying images based upon data obtained by the data processing, in which the portable terminal further including current position detecting means for detecting its current position, (see col. 2, lines 8-11), comprising the steps of:

“storing a database that includes map data used to display an area in which a plurality of objects to be managed are placed as a map, position data used to display a position of each of the plurality of objects in the area on the map, and attribute data used to identify each object in a locally unique way” as based on the information received from the host computer, the display mean displays the corresponding data obtained by the data processing, wherein the user of the portable terminal can obtain appropriate information regarding circumstances of a desire location of the object, (see col. 2, lines 28-34);

“prompting a user to specify a specific object among the plurality of objects” ;

“reading the map data and the position data of the specific object from the database” as to specify an area in the map to be displayed on the screen on the display unit 22 so as to read out appropriate map data from the map database, (see col. 10, lines 26-28); and

“displaying the position of the specific object in the area on the map according to the map data and the position data read from the database” as to specify an area in the map to be displayed on the screen on the display unit 22 so as to read out appropriate map data from the map database, (see col. 10, lines 26-28), and column 2, lines 28-34.

As per claim 14, Naito discloses, “wherein the database is received from a host computer and stored in the database storing step” as a communication host apparatus which includes a database for storing a plurality of data set wherein each concerns a predetermined position, (see col. 1, lines 67 to col. 2, lines 3).

As per claim 15, Naito discloses, “wherein the database is updated by the host computer” as the host computer 50 transmits data to the portable terminal 12 via the network system and writes appropriate data to the database 52, (see col. 5, lines 60-65).

As per claim 16, Naito discloses, “wherein the host computer updates the database at predetermined times” as means for responsive to the time up signal to transmit the position information data indicative of the current position of the portable terminal to the communication host apparatus, (see col. 2, lines 39-41).

Art Unit: 2172

As per claim 17, Naito discloses “a computer readable storage medium that stores a program to be executed by a computer” as a communication host apparatus which includes a database for storing a plurality of data set wherein each concerns a predetermined position, (see col. 1, lines 67 to col. 2, lines 3), the program enabling the computer to execute:

“a first process for displaying a map based on map data and on position data of an object that is positioned and managed in a specific area, wherein the map data and the position data are stored in a database” as based on the information received from the host computer, the display mean displays the corresponding data obtained by the data processing, wherein the user of the portable terminal can obtain appropriate information regarding circumstances of a desire location of the object, (see col. 2, lines 28-34);

“a second process for drawing a display mark of the object to be managed according to an input from a user on the map” as based upon the supplied the second text information data, in which the display unit 22 displays on the screen a text corresponding to the text information data, (see col. 10, lines 44-46);

“a third process for obtaining coordinate data of the drawn display mark on the map” as based upon the supplied intersection position area, in which displays on the screen an image of a map and the road sections, (see col. 10, lines 46-49); and

“a fourth process for storing the coordinate data in the database in relation to entered data of the object” as a communication host apparatus which includes a database for storing a plurality of data set wherein each concerns a predetermined position, (see col. 1, lines 67 to col. 2, lines 3).

Art Unit: 2172

As per claim 18, Naito discloses, "wherein the program further enables the computer to execute a process for presenting a list of objects to be managed, read from the database, so as to prompt the user to specify a particular object to be managed and to be stored in relation to the coordinate data in the fourth process" as a communication host apparatus which includes a database for storing a plurality of data set wherein each concerns a predetermined position, (see col. 1, lines 67 to col. 2, lines 3), and column 10, lines 26-28.

Prior Art

8. The prior art of record and not relied on upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Suzuki U.S. Patent No. 6,026,400 relates to information processors, which retrieve appropriate information in reply to an operator's request. Kobayashi et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,263,347 relates to a system for linking data between a computer and a portable remote terminal.

Art Unit: 2172

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B Fleurantin whose telephone number is 703-308-6718.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BREENE JOHN E can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.


Jean Bolte Fleurantin

December 23, 2003